

'THRONES' TAKES THE THRONE FOR 2013

WHY OUR TV EDITOR SAYS THE SHOW REIGNS SUPREME. PAGES 18-19



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Fine feathered friend.

Birdie, the city's mascot for all things environmental, sits down for an exclusive interview with Metro where he chirps about his career and being mistaken for a penguin.

Swan song?

Mayor Michael Bloomberg's best bird friend might be put to flight when the next administration enters office. **Green.** He squawks about New York's increasing role as an eco-leader. PAGE 02



BIRDIE'S THE WORD.

'Anchorman 2' may blow first away

PAGE 25



You'll know Judith Hill in 2014

PAGE 26

Toys for the tech nerd you love

PAGE 34

Get fit, but leave this at home

PAGES 36-37





1

NEWS

Quoted

"No one has stewarded Brooklyn like you, and I don't think they ever will."

Councilman Brad Lander, to out-going Borough President Marty Markowitz

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'Sara Bareilles singing 'Brave' with tiny cancer survivor might be the best thing ever'

2 'Bark-operated washing machine lets dogs do laundry'

3 'VIDEO: Family creates 'Xmas Jammies' Christmas song to celebrate the season'

With just two weeks until Mayor Michael Bloomberg leaves office, Birdie, a two-dimensional Quaker Parrot and the face of GreeNYC, is nostalgic. In an exclusive interview with Metro, Birdie discusses fame, his first press conference and his hopes for the future.

Tell me a little about yourself.

I was born in Brooklyn, but these days I have a nest in every borough. I can fly, but I can't touch my toes. I don't migrate — I'd miss NYC too much. I wasn't born green, I've learned most of what I know about the environment from this job.

Such as?

Over the years it's become part of my routine to mend things instead of throwing them out, walk and bike more, only use

Going green

"I'm not living a completely sustainable life, but I'm doing my best."

Birdie

cold water when washing clothes, keep a reusable bag with me, turn lights off when I leave a room and such. I'm not living a completely sustainable life, but I'm doing my best.

Who comes up with all of your costumes and accessories?

Roya Kazemi is the director of GreeNYC. She's my direct supervisor and my stylist.

Do you ever get "recognized" by other New Yorkers?

At the last Million Trees planting, it took me 40 minutes to walk from the planting site to the lunch area because of all the photo requests. My fan base is very devoted. They see me on the street and quote back tweets of mine or describe their favorite Instagram photos I've posted. It's been so wonderful to see how the program has grown over the years. In the early days there was a lot of "What's with the penguin?" (sheeh!) now it's "Hey look, it's Birdie!"

When did you first meet Mayor Bloomberg?

The Mayor and I first met in person at an unseasonably warm Earth Day event in Times Square in 2010. It was my first time in front of so many cameras. I was sweating big time. Questions from the press were being directed at me. I was too shy and overwhelmed to answer. He stepped in and took control of the situation.

That's where our future roles at press events really took shape. He'd field the questions and I'd be the bird behind (or to the left of, or to the right of) our sustainability mayor.

Under Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio, is it going to be "bye-bye Birdie"?

GreeNYC has established NYC as the global leader in city-level, data-driven, well-designed and successfully implemented marketing campaigns around sustainability. I hope the next administration is going to continue our work, and I would be honored to continue to serve and help continue to build an even greener and greater city.

(Lis Smith, a spokeswoman for de Blasio, said, "We encourage Birdie and other talented mascots to submit their résumés to Transition2013.com.")

ANNA SANDERS

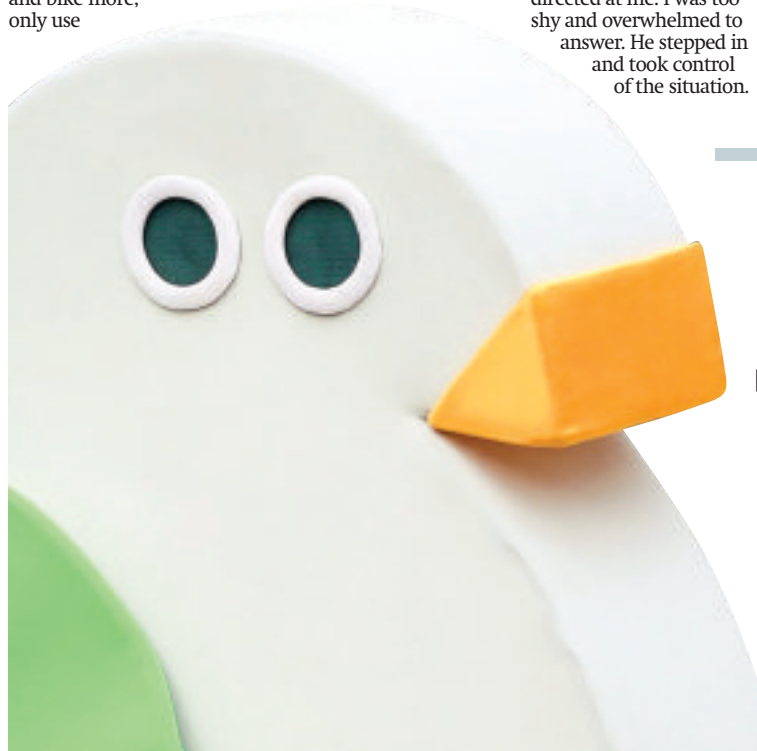
anna.sanders@metro.us

Working hard

Birdie has been GreeNYC's mascot since 2007 and began making public appearances as a full-time staffer in 2010.

His duties include:

- Posing for PSA campaigns that promote sustainable practices, like using energy-efficient lightbulbs and reducing paper waste
- Representing GreeNYC at events, often with Mayor Bloomberg
- Visiting, in recent months, the Hunt's Point Hustle, touring the Materials for the Arts warehouse and visiting the Brooklyn Grange, a rooftop farm
- Keeping track of green initiatives throughout the five boroughs.



BIRDIE

During his time as GreeNYC's mascot, Birdie has promoted sustainability across the five boroughs, rarely making a peep.

BLOOMBERG'S BIRD BUDDY SPEAKS

NYPD. Blind man falls on Harlem subway tracks with guide dog

An unidentified blind man survived after he and his guide dog fell onto tracks and a subway train passed over them in a Harlem station Tuesday morning, officials said.

The man and his dog fell around 9:35 a.m. on the northbound A train tracks at West 125th Street and St. Nicolas

Avenue, police and fire department officials said.

After he fell, a construction flagger told the man to stay down. The train passed over the man and his dog, missing them. The man was transported to St. Luke's Hospital in with minor lacerations to his head.

ANNA SANDERS

Greenwich Village

Village nabe landmarked

The area of Greenwich Village south of Washington Square Park was declared a historic landmark by the city's Landmark Preservation Commission on Tuesday.

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation first proposed landmark status 10 years ago.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

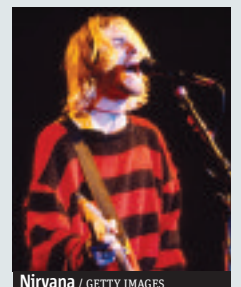
Greatest hits

Barclays Center to host Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is coming to Brooklyn.

The 2014 induction ceremony will be held at the Barclays Center on April 10, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame announced Tuesday.

Inductees include Peter Dinklage, KISS, Nirvana and Cat Stevens, among others.



Nirvana / GETTY IMAGES

ANNA SANDERS

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ToysRUs.com. Once there, you can see all the toys we've already requested for kids, with more being added daily. Simply select the toys you want and purchase them. That's it! Selecting only the toys on our Wish List ensures that all the gifts will be shipped to our offices. If you donate, email Metro at charity@metro.us, letting us know what you gave, and we'll print a "thank you" in the paper.

METRO

Brooklyn

Vote on LICH
purchase
postponed

The SUNY Board of Trustees voted to postpone a decision on the sale of cash-strapped Long Island College Hospital Tuesday.

A real estate firm proposed to redevelop parts of the facility into

condos and lease other portions to health care providers, but the divided board decided to table a vote on the sale.

Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio said in a statement before the vote that he will fight any plans that fail to "provide critical health care for surrounding neighborhoods."

ANNA SANDERS

Skaters play it cool at the Prospect Park rink

Grab your skates.

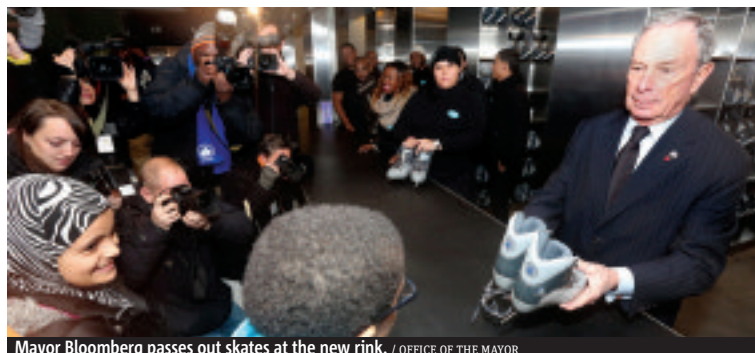
Mayor Bloomberg cut the ribbon on a new, year-round outdoor facility.

A horde of local middle schoolers, several of whom said they had never been ice skating before, crowded the new Samuel J. and Ethel LeFrak Center in Prospect Park Tuesday morning, awaiting the arrival of Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

When he arrived, the kids all jumped to their feet. "We should do a standing ovation," one little girl whispered to another.

Mayor Bloomberg handed out skates to students who didn't have them, then moved on to announce the unveiling of the new ice skating rink.

"I high-fived him!" a



Mayor Bloomberg passes out skates at the new rink. / OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Prediction

"There'll be many marriages as a result of this. ... Or at least a few dates."

Marty Markowitz
Brooklyn borough president

breathless boy said as the mayor brushed past.

Like the High Line in Manhattan, the skating rink is the result of a public-private partnership between the Parks Department and the private sector — this time the Prospect Park Alliance. The vast majority of the public funding — \$46 million out of \$54 million — came from the city, though state

and federal officials also secured some funds.

Bloomberg hailed the center as the largest capital project in Prospect Park in at least 120 years. It will be open year-round, and it will offer a roller rink and swimming facilities in warmer months.



DANIELLE
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danielle.tcholakian@metro.us

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THIRTEEN



Lawsuit. NYCHA to fix 'pervasive' mold in NYC public housing

The city's public housing residents may finally be able to breathe easy.

Rampant and severe mold in NYCHA housing that was apparently causing breathing difficulties, sometimes bad enough to warrant hospitalization, must now be addressed, thanks to a settlement in a class action lawsuit.

The tenants, represented by the National Resources Defense Council and the National Center for Law and Economic Justice, often missed work or school due to illness caused by mold in their homes.

Many, like Rosana De La Cuadra's 6-year-old daughter Amanda Santos, have asthma. Mold has been growing for years in De La Cuadra's bathroom and Amanda's bedroom. It has caused Amanda to be hospitalized several times.

The settlement also forces significant changes

Settlement

In the past, the city has largely employed "cosmetic" solutions to mold, like paint or bleach.

- NYCHA now has to recognize that mold is caused by water and therefore address the problem at its source.
- They also have a rigid deadline for repairs: seven days for minor problems and 15 for more complex ones.

in how the city approaches the issue of mold in public housing.

NYCHA will also now recognize indoor mold as a threat to tenants with asthma and acknowledge that they are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN



Adopt a pet with Metro and ASPCA

Cece is a sweet 1-year-old cat who likes to play hard-to-get. She wants to interact, but she needs time to warm up first. Once she feels comfortable, she'll initiate playtime. Cece is in the ASPCA Office Foster Cat program, which means she's spent a lot of quality time with an ASPCA staff member. She'd do best in an adults-only home without other cats. If you would like to adopt Cece, stop by the ASPCA at 424 E. 92nd Street or visit www.adoptaspca.org. / ASPCA

Changes

City's top lawyer returns to private firm

The city's top lawyer, serving 12 years under Mayor Michael Bloomberg, will step down and return to the private sector.

Michael Cardozo, the city's longest-serving Corporation Counsel, will return to the global law firm of Proskauer, the Law Department announced Tuesday.

Cardozo's office argued on behalf of the city for some of Bloomberg's biggest legal battles, including a lawsuit against the large soda ban and the federal stop-and-frisk trial.

Bloomberg said in a statement that city settlement payouts were reduced by 14 percent and the tort case backlog was reduced by 50 percent under Cardozo.

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Public invited to the inauguration

Accessibility

"From spending hours at City Hall after the swearing-in meeting attendees, to opening up Gracie Mansion for anyone and everyone to attend, Inauguration 2014 promises to be one of the most open and accessible swearing-in events in New York City history."

Gabrielle Fialkoff
Chair of the inauguration



Bill de Blasio has said that his inauguration will be a reflection of his pledge to be for all New Yorkers. / GETTY IMAGES

Open. The public will be allowed to request tickets to the mayor's induction.

Aiming to make the ceremony more accessible, organizers will offer tickets to the general public for Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio's

Info coming

Information on how to request tickets for either the inauguration or open house will be released in the next few days.

inauguration.

"Mayor-Elect de Blasio has pledged an inauguration for all New Yorkers, and that's what New

Yorkers will get in these ceremonies," Gabrielle Fialkoff, chair of the inauguration, said in a statement Tuesday.

Following the ceremony on the steps of City Hall, de Blasio and his wife, soon-to-be first lady Chirlane McCray, will greet attendees.

De Blasio and McCray are also hosting an open house at Gracie Mansion on Jan. 5.

The big day

De Blasio will be sworn in as the 109th mayor at noon on Jan. 1 along with Public Advocate-Elect Letitia James and Comptroller-Elect Scott Stringer.

**ANNA
SANDERS**

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Pedestrian injuries rise at hospital

Doctors at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens say more needs to be done to address the rising number of pedestrians and bicyclists who are injured in the area.

More than 20 percent of emergency room injuries at the hospital involve traffic accidents and pedestrians, The New York Daily News reported.

"We feel law enforcement can be stepped up," Jaime Ullman, the hospital's director of neurosurgery, told the News. "Distracted behaviors, cell phone use — the



Pedestrians are needing more of these, according to a local hospital. / GETTY IMAGES

penalties for these behaviors should be escalated so they would be a better deterrent."

There were 296

pedestrian injury cases recorded at Elmhurst Hospital in 2012, up from 275 in 2011 and the highest number

By the numbers

20

The percentage that emergency room injuries at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens involving traffic accidents and pedestrians have risen since last year.

in a decade. Among the injured, 215 were pedestrians and 81 were bicyclists, according to the News.

The most accident prone roads are Queens Boulevard, Roosevelt Avenue and Northern Boulevard. **LAURA SHIN**

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Photo by Win Lubin. Artists, programs, dates, and ticket prices subject to change. © 2013 CHC.

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Former Microsoft exec DelBene to oversee Obamacare site repair

Praise. His appointment was lauded by Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

Kurt DelBene, a recently retired Microsoft executive who headed the software giant's Office unit, will spearhead efforts to continue the overhaul of the federal government's website for health insurance, the government said on Tuesday.

DelBene, who starts



Kurt DelBene / GETTY IMAGES

his new job today, will replace Jeffrey Zients, a longtime aide to President Barack Obama who starts a new job as top economic adviser at the White House in the new year.

DelBene, husband of

DelBene at Microsoft

He was in charge of providing complex software and services, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Microsoft Exchange.

- Under his leadership, Microsoft moved toward making the Office suite of applications available online.

U.S. Rep. Suzan DelBene of Washington, is volunteering, a White House official said.

He will be compensated for his work, but will return his entire salary, which was not released, to the Treasury.

Zients was brought in two months ago to take charge of the contractors working on HealthCare.gov, the broken website at the heart of the signature health reforms known as Obamacare.

REUTERS

Judge. Faith groups are exempt from federal contraception mandate

A judge has ruled that four organizations with ties to the Roman Catholic church are exempt from a provision of the Affordable Care Act that requires them to provide coverage for contraceptive services and counseling to employees.

Judge Brian Cogan in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn found that the four New York-area Roman Catholic entities — two schools and two healthcare organizations — faced “some present detriment” by being forced to comply with the contraception mandate or face financial

penalties.

Churches and houses of worship are exempt from the requirement.

Arguing that the mandate violates their right to religious liberty, the four New York-area organizations — Catholic Health Care System, Catholic Health Services of Long Island, Cardinal Spellman High School and Monsignor Farrell High School — along with the Archdiocese of New York, had sued to seek a permanent injunction. The four organizations insure some 30,000 individuals of all faiths.

REUTERS



Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx. / GETTY IMAGES

Avoid shutdown

US budget deal clears crucial vote in Senate

A two-year budget deal on Tuesday cleared a Senate procedural vote that all but assured its passage by a simple majority later this week in the Democrat-controlled chamber.

The Senate voted

67-33 to limit debate on the measure, exceeding the required 60 votes and overcoming the opposition of conservative Republicans who objected to increased near-term government spending.

The Senate, where Democrats have a 55-45 majority, is expected to vote on final passage of the budget measure as early as today. REUTERS

Open fire

Gunman, one other dead in Nev. hospital building shooting

A man opened fire on Tuesday in a Reno, Nev., medical building. The shooter killed one person and

injured two others before he died of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound, deputy police chief Tom Robinson said.

The deadly incident erupted shortly after 2 p.m. local time at the building adjacent to the Renown Regional Medical Center, Robinson said.

REUTERS

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Death toll

Six US soldiers victims of fatal helicopter crash in Afghanistan

Six U.S. soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, NATO said, the largest death toll in a single incident to hit the international force in months.

"The cause of the crash is under investigation; however, initial reporting indicates there was no enemy activity in the area at the time," a NATO statement said.

U.S. defense officials said the soldiers killed in the crash, which occurred in Afghanistan's southern Zabul province, were American.

Zabul's deputy governor, Mohammad Jan Ra-

Survivor

1

One person survived the crash but suffered injuries.

soulyar, said a crash had taken place in the Shah Joy district of Zabul.

Aircraft crashes are not uncommon in mountainous Afghanistan. **REUTERS**

Suspected Sept. 11 attacker expelled from tribunal courtroom

Defendants. They were captured in 2002 and 2003 and were first charged at Guantanamo in 2008.

An accused conspirator in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington was expelled from a courtroom at the Guantanamo Bay war crimes tribunal on Tuesday for being disruptive.

During a pre-trial hearing in the death penalty case, Army Col. Judge James Pohl discussed with the five defendants their right to be present during the courtroom proceedings.

Each of the defendants said he understood



Quoted

"I'm not a war criminal."

Binalshibh Shouted as he was escorted out

The U.S. military has identified Binalshibh and the other defendants as "high-value detainees" who played key roles in plotting the Sept. 11 attacks. / GETTY IMAGES

his rights until the judge asked Ramzi Binalshibh, who is accused of wiring money to Sept. 11 hijackers and passing information to key al-Qaida operatives.

Binalshibh initially said he did not under-

stand, but then began complaining about his prison cell conditions. He said guards intentionally made banging sounds that kept him awake at night.

Military officials denied the allegations. **REUTERS**

New revenue source. Facebook to test video ads in newsfeeds

Facebook Inc. took a first step on Tuesday toward selling video ads that play automatically in newsfeeds, moving cautiously to unlock a source of revenue that could annoy users.

Facebook, which had long been expected to try and grab a larger slice of the \$66 billion U.S. television advertising market, will start by working with Summit Entertainment on ads for "Divergent,"

based on the popular series of science-fiction books.

Facebook will run video ads for Divergent on Thursday in a one-day test. The video spot, which will only be viewable by certain groups in the United States, will begin playing with the sound muted when it appears in a user's newsfeed. Facebook users can turn on the sound by clicking on the ad. **REUTERS**



Facebook might annoy users again. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"Marketers will be able to use this new format to tell their stories to a large number of people on Facebook in a short amount of time – with high-quality sight, sound and motion." Facebook

Believe



Share your holiday spirit with us! #MacysBelieve





How Americans greet the season

Nearly half of Americans say stores and businesses should greet customers with "Happy Holidays" or "Season's Greetings" instead of "Merry Christmas" out of respect for people of different faiths, according to a poll. The issue has become increasingly political, with 49 percent of Americans supporting "Happy Holidays," up from 44 percent in 2010, according to the Public Religion Research Institute. **REUTERS** / GETTY IMAGES

By the numbers

43%

Of Americans prefer specifically religious greeting

From top Hitler aide. Holocaust museum gets long-lost diary

The long-lost diary kept by a top aide to Adolf Hitler as he oversaw the genocide against Jews and others during World War II, a key piece of evidence during the Nuremberg trials, was handed over on Tuesday to the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents found and seized Alfred Rosenberg's 400-page diary in Wilmington, Del. this year, ending a nearly 70-year hunt for the diary which disappeared after the Nuremberg trials in 1946.

"The finding and return of the Rosenberg Diary is one more small but significant step toward a full and complete understanding of the depraved mindset of those responsible for the mass killing of Jewish people and ethnic groups during

War criminal

Rosenberg was a defendant at the Nuremberg Trials in Germany, from 1945 to 1946.

- He was found guilty on all four counts of the indictment for conspiracy to commit aggressive warfare, crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- Rosenberg was hanged on Oct. 16, 1946.

World War II," said U.S. Attorney Charles Oberly.

Rosenberg was privy to much of the planning for the Nazi state, the mass murder of the Jewish people and other ethnic groups as well as planning of conduct of World War II.

REUTERS

On Facebook

Mom arrested for post about shooting

An Iowa mother is facing criminal charges for a Facebook message that threatened a school shooting in retaliation for bullying against her 15-year-old son. Teri Pallat, 39, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was arrested on Monday and charged with making a "terroristic threat" and harassment for allegedly warning school administrators that they would be to blame if her son shot up the school.

According to police, the post read: "And they asked why do people shoot up schools, well this is exactly why and when our son does it cause I know he will have nobody to blame but the administration and I promise everyone he will only get the ones that caused this. He is an excellent marks men." **REUTERS**

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FDA warning

Attention deficit drugs may cause long erections

A leading type of stimulant used to treat attention deficit disorder can cause rare cases of painful and long-lasting erections, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned on Tuesday.

The agency, in a notice on its website, said its review documented the problem, formally known as priapism, in males 8 to 33 years of age who took drugs containing methylphenidate. The chemical is the active ingredient of Novartis AG's Ritalin and Johnson & Johnson's Concerta. Generic forms of both drugs are also widely used. **REUTERS**

Other diplomatic efforts

Kerry: Meeting with Syrian rebels possible

The United States has not met representatives of Syria's Islamic Front but a meeting is possible to broaden the representation of moderate opposition groups in talks to end the Syrian war, U.S. Secretary of State John

Kerry said on Tuesday. The United Nations has scheduled a peace conference on Syria for Jan. 22 in Geneva to discuss a political transition to lead the country out of war.

"The United States has not met to date with the Islamic Front but it's possible it could take place," Kerry told a news conference in Manila. **REUTERS**

John Kerry plays down tensions with China



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry gestures as he delivers a speech alongside Philippine President Benigno Aquino III ahead of a dinner in Manila. / GETTY IMAGES

Maritime disputes. U.S. secretary of state is in Southeast Asia to talk with regional allies.

Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday played down tension with China over the East China Sea, saying U.S. efforts to strengthen maritime security in Southeast Asia were part of a normal process to help allies defend themselves better.

Kerry said maritime disputes between countries should be resolved peacefully through arbitration and the U.S. would speak out when a country, such as China, took unilateral action that raised the potential for conflict.

The U.S. has said it does not recognize an air defense zone imposed by Beijing amid friction with Japan over disputed islands in the East China Sea.

China also is locked in territorial rows with Southeast Asian nations over swaths of the South China Sea.

Beijing has said it might set up a similar air

defense zone there.

A day after the United States gave \$32.5 million to stiffen maritime security in Southeast Asia, the bulk of it for Vietnam, Kerry said the United States would provide \$40 million to the Philippines to build its capacity to police the South China Sea.

"We don't view the situation as one of rising tensions and we don't want rising tensions," Kerry told a news conference with his Philippine counterpart Albert del Rosario.

"What we are involved in are normal processes by which we work with other countries in order to raise their maritime protection capacity."

He said the U.S. had not taken a position on any claims by countries in disputed seas, but did not agree with the way China has responded in the dispute with Japan. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"We don't view the situation as one of rising tensions and we don't want rising tensions."

Kerry

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Wireless licenses in Myanmar mired in controversy

Phoning it in.

One of Asia's least-connected countries is finally getting wired.



A monk talks on his mobile phone during a meeting of Buddhist monks at a monastery. / YE AUNG THU, AFP, GETTY IMAGES

The process of awarding telecommunication licenses in Myanmar has been closely watched as a test case for reform in the rapidly developing country. After decades of isolation and economic mismanagement under a military dictatorship, only 4 to 9 percent of its 60 million citizens have access to a mobile phone.

In June, after an intense competition with numerous firms, two foreign companies won the coveted rights to operate telecom networks in the country formally known as Burma — Qatar's Ooredoo and Norway's Telenor.

The hope is that finally awarding these licenses to foreign firms will speed up development in the country; until recently, state-owned firms have kept SIM cards unaffordable for most of its citizens. "Nobody has any experience or any idea how the government is going to regulate the sector," said Edwin Vanderbruggen of Yangon-based law firm VDB Loi, which advises telecom companies hoping to do business in the country, recently told Reuters.

He is right to worry: The mobile licenses were

Quoted

"For perceptions of impartiality, fairness and a level playing field, it is highly undesirable for government officials to have personal commercial interests in the sectors [that] they regulate."

Marae Giarar
A Singapore-based lawyer with law firm Allens, on the apparent conflict, to Reuters

awarded through a process managed by the influential — and controversial — Deputy Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Thaung Tin.

During the bidding process, one contender, Japan's KDDI, worked with

Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development Corp., a local consortium that includes a company founded by Tin and headed by his wife. Their company conducted significant business with various telecommunication candidates.

Tin, without the authority of the president, is reportedly offering up additional licenses. On Dec. 5, Tin suddenly issued so-called "requests for proposals" to three different foreign telecom firms, including Japan's KDDI. No fellow cabinet members were consulted or even forewarned in the matter.

The country's community of foreign telecom experts and executives predict Myanmar's further fall in Transparency International's corruption index. The focus in this strange affair is now on the president's own office. **METRO**

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CULTURE



Twitter feed

We check in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Paris Hilton is feeling the chill, John Cusack is enjoying being at work, Shia LaBeouf is on damage control and Harry Styles is dreaming up new nightmares.

@ParisHilton Just landed in Moscow. It's so cold here. All the plane's windows are covered in snow & ice. Freezing! Burrrrr....

@johncusack Finishing a night shoot I. Mobile Alabama - lovely town and people

@thecampaignbook I f--ked up.

@Harry_Styles 'It's like mixture of spider and mouse.'

Shia LaBeouf rips off Daniel Clowes, Yahoo! Answers

What if I told you that Shia LaBeouf had actually written and directed a smart, sensitive short film? Kind of changes the way you see the loud, erratic star, doesn't it? OK, now what if I told you that pretty much the entire film is a rip-off of an indie graphic novel?

Aaaaand the world we know snaps back into place.

LaBeouf's short film, "Howard Cantour.com," about a film critic, premiered at last year's Sundance Film Festival to critical praise. Yesterday it was released online, where fans immediately noticed its similarities to "Justin



M. Damiano," a comic by indie artist Daniel Clowes. And not just small, coincidental similarities, either. "Every word from the four-page comic created by Clowes in 2006 is used in the script for LaBeouf's directional debut," Jacqueline Cohen, director of publicity and promotions

for Fantagraphics Books, told Boing Boing.

LaBeouf has since apologized (ish) on Twitter. "Copying isn't particularly creative work. Being inspired by someone else's idea to produce something new and different is creative work," he wrote.

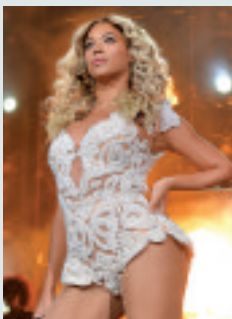
How could things get worse? What if I told you this apology is strikingly similar to one written by a Yahoo! Answers user four years ago, thus suggesting Shia plagiarized his apology for plagiarizing? Nice work, Shia.

- with additional reporting by Melinda Taub

Talking point

Not everyone loves Beyonce

It seems not everyone enjoyed the surprise Beyonce pulled off with her latest album, which debuted online last week with no prior notice. Retail chain Target, in fact, is refusing to carry the album, according to Billboard. "At Target we focus on offering our guests a wide assortment of physical CDs, and when a new album is available digitally before



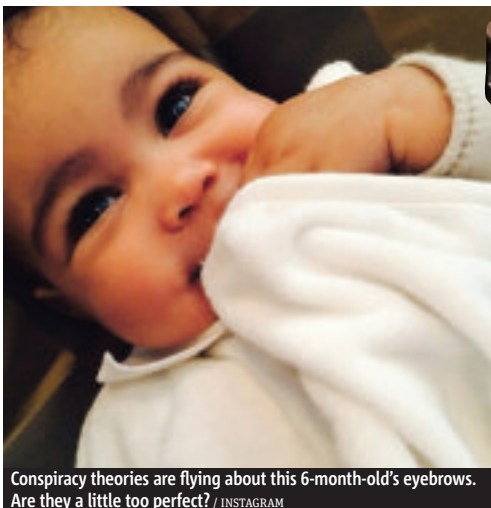
Target will not be carrying Beyonce's self-titled album. GETTY IMAGES

it is available physically, it impacts demand and sales projections," a spokeswoman for the chain says. "While there are many aspects that contribute to our approach, and we have appreciated partnering with Beyonce in the past, we are primarily focused on offering CDs that will be available in a physical format at the same time as all other formats. At this time, Target will not be carrying Beyonce's new self-titled album 'Beyonce.'"

Baby North West rocks a stellar brow game

After Kim Kardashian Instagrammed this picture of baby North West on Monday, some accused her of waxing the baby's eyebrows, forcing her spokesperson tell The Daily Mail the claims are "completely false."

Which is good because you know that fictional eyebrow groomer probably makes more than your annual salary.



Conspiracy theories are flying about this 6-month-old's eyebrows. Are they a little too perfect? / INSTAGRAM

Abigail Breslin: 'Little Miss' is all grown up

Abigail Breslin, 17, showed the world she was no longer "Little Miss Sunshine" when she decided to wear this revealing gown to the premiere of "August: Osage County" on Monday night in Los Angeles, Calif.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

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The top television

TV. Metro staffers pick the best shows of this past year.

"This is rather pathetic, but I still have a soft spot in my heart for 'Grey's Anatomy.' You may as well be asking your mother what is hip."

DOROTHY ROBINSON

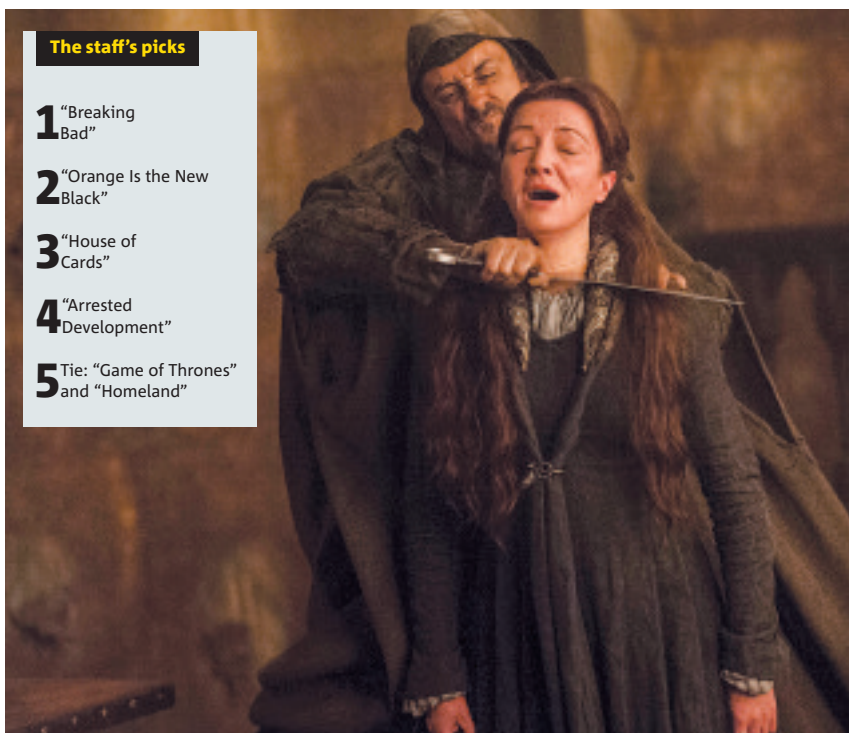
"I kind of feel like Christina's take-down of Meredith, re: 'I am moving past you, and that's OK,' was one of the single best scenes I've seen on TV this season. Really an apt and concise dialogue-opener in the ongoing 'Can women have it all, and what does that even mean?' discourse."

T. MICHELLE MURPHY

"I'm really glad we didn't neglect 'Arrested Development.' I can't tell you how many people told me they turned it off after the fourth episode — RIGHT

The staff's picks

- 1 "Breaking Bad"
- 2 "Orange Is the New Black"
- 3 "House of Cards"
- 4 "Arrested Development"
- 5 Tie: "Game of Thrones" and "Homeland"



Seriously, "Game of Thrones" totally went there. / HELEN SLOAN

Knee Arthritis Pain?

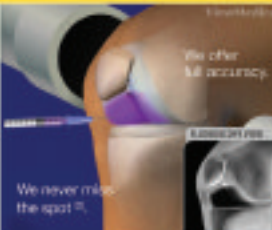
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shows of 2013

before the first Tobias story, which took it from passable to mind-meltingly brilliant. Even more so than the original run, it requires you get into its singular groove. Then it's hard to quit."

MATT PRIGGE

"Arrested Development" was so bad. It was like going back to a high school reunion and being feverish to see an old crush only to find him weird and off-key. The original chemistry you longed for so much just died with time." DR

"I just wanna go on the record saying that 'Orange Is the New Black' is kinda lame. There's too much cuteness and it's also super hokey, but people don't really realize that because



Spacey stars in "House of Cards." / MELINDA SUE GORDON

fiance to chase the chicken is when I left the show."

PAT HEALY

"You clearly missed the episode where the crazy meth head walks into an abortion clinic with a shotgun and becomes a poster child for the Evangelistic church. Yeah, it might be hokey at times (it's TV!) but it's dark, too, and the storyline is refreshing compared to the usual female-centric, girl-in-the-big-city or girl-raises-baby-on-her-own sitcom. #Nodisrespect to Gilmore Girls/The Mindy Project"

TINA CHADHA

For TV editor Alexandra Cavallo's picks, turn to page 20.

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"SAVE for 'Scandal'! You have not seen passion until you've watched Olivia and the president get down in the Oval Office!" TC



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Editor's picks



Nathan Fielder wants to fix your business. / DANNY FELD

'Game of Thrones'

1 I apologize on behalf of my colleagues, who put "Game of Thrones" in fifth and last spot — and at a tie no less! (Full disclosure: I have never seen an episode of "Homeland." I know, I know. *slaps own wrist.* I'm one of those people who can't start watching a show once every single other person I've ever known is already multiple seasons deep. It's a real problem, I'm working on it. It's the same reason I didn't watch "Breaking Bad." *slaps wrist twice*) Anyway, "Game of Thrones" had the best season ever. What other show has the balls to ruthlessly — and awesomely — kill off so many main characters like it ain't no thing? "GoT" reigns supreme. See what I did there?

'House of Cards'

2 Other than HBO (and FX and A&E and — damn, seems like television is killing

huh?) Netflix is putting out some of the most exciting and game-changing programs of the moment. "House of Cards" is utterly captivating — and this comes from a person that, full disclosure, doesn't even vote. *applies ice to swollen wrist* But this show has it all: intrigue, sex, violence, scandal and Kevin Spacey.

'Project Runway'

3 Here's my shout out to reality TV. Housewives, teen moms, people who have sex with inanimate objects — I watch it all. But "Project Runway" (technically a reality competition, which is higher-brow) is a quality show. The contestants are actually talented (for the most part), the challenges are exciting and there's still enough catfighting to sate my appetite for low-brow reality crap. Plus, it's got the best panel of famous people ever (no offense to "The Voice"). (Just kidding, total offense meant.)

'Girls'

4 I don't care what anybody says, Lena Dunham is genius, and she's likeable, despite airing her flaws (both emotional and physical) for the whole world. Sure, season two didn't quite meet the very high bar the first set — it was a little depressing — but as a 20-something girl myself (OK FINE, 29, IT STILL COUNTS) I can totally relate to almost everything that is said and done on this show. Don't judge me.

'Nathan for You'

5 Nathan Fielder is one of the funniest weirdos on TV. (Although I'll add a shout-out to Billy Eichner of "Billy on the Street.") Comedy Central's docu-reality comedy series features Fielder using his "business background" to help failing companies. Spoiler alert: He is not helpful.



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Walcott Says Thank You, INSIDE

The latest news from the NYC Department of Education

Public School Press

DECEMBER 2013

THE TECH TRANSFORMATION

NYC leading the digital revolution in schools

Students competing in robotics competitions. Schools devoted to software engineering. Parents using laptops to enroll their kids in kindergarten.

New York City's hundred-year-old public school system has not only entered the digital age—it's standing at the forefront.

The leaders of the digital revolution include Jeffrey Stephens-Prince, a technology teacher and robotics coach at M.S. 113 in Brooklyn, who came to teaching after 27 years in the corporate world. "One day, I taught a whole class on animation," he says. "When they began to get curious about it, I knew I'd tapped into something that would motivate them." He says he uses "all kinds of technologies" to introduce students to advanced topics in science, technology, engineering and math (also known as STEM).

One recent study found that STEM-related jobs are expected to grow 17 percent by 2018, far faster than the projection for overall employment, and second only to healthcare¹.

The city has wasted no time working to meet the demand: this year alone, the city expanded STEM courses to an additional



Technology classes, like the one pictured here at the American Sign Language & English Secondary School, are becoming more widespread in NYC schools.

2,500 students. It's also aiming to recruit and train 120 computer science and coding teachers over the next three years.

Another cutting-edge initiative, the Innovation Zone (iZone), offers new models of learning, especially making use of digital resources. Started with 81 schools in 2010, the iZone has grown to nearly 300 schools. One school, J.H.S. 88 in Brooklyn, uses 'blended-learning' that combines traditional classroom instruction with online teaching to customize learning for each student.

And kids aren't the only ones benefiting from the digital upgrade. Beginning in January, families will have the option to

submit kindergarten applications online. "Kindergarten Connect" replaces an old system which required families to trek to multiple schools in person and deal with excessive paperwork. The new digital option lets families spend more time researching schools and less time completing multiple applications.

Having one 'computer class' at school used to be considered forward thinking. But today, with educators taking advantage of newer tools like blogs, social gaming, and even robots, the way kids learn is changing at the speed of light.

¹Carnevale, Anthony P., Nicole Smith, and Michelle Melton. 2011. STEM. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. <http://cew.georgetown.edu/stem/>.



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor



nycschools



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Straight Talk from the Chancellor

Schools Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott responds to parents' questions

Your term as Chancellor will end on December 31st. Looking back, what will you miss most?

The people. I'll miss interacting with hard-working, dedicated educators, students, and the thousands of families who make up this city's school community. My favorite moments have been walking into classrooms and witnessing students absorbing—and enjoying—what they've been learning.

What have you been most proud of in your time as Chancellor?

Getting our students ready for the challenges of adulthood and the real world. My goal has been to emphasize the importance of preparing our children for college and successful careers. We introduced the Common Core standards, the most dramatic

change to classroom instruction in a generation, and we opened dozens of career and technical education schools that became national models, among many other things.

These policies are working. Ten years ago, people had written off many of our schools as dangerous, dysfunctional

“College and career readiness is now a permanent part of the discussion in all of our schools”

dropout factories, and the idea of focusing our attention on something as ambitious as college readiness was out of the question. Now the dropout rate has been halved, crime in schools is at a record low, and we're considered a national model for an urban school system. College and career readiness is now a permanent part of the discussion in all of our schools.

What has been most satisfying about your job?

The greatest satisfaction has been to see students excited about learning and planning for their future success. I've witnessed so many inspiring moments in our classrooms across the city. There's a new level of energy in our schools.

What has been most challenging?

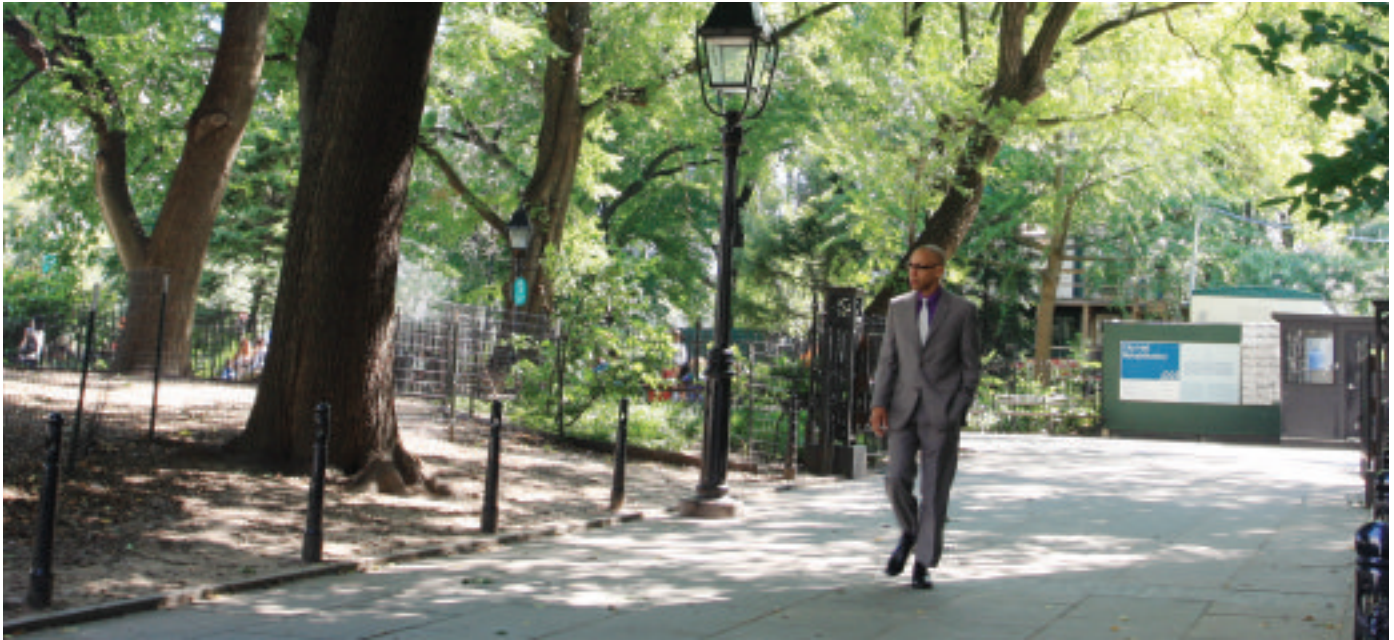
Change means uncertainty for many people, and the transition to higher standards hasn't been easy. But I believe that when it comes to students you can't be short-sighted.

Adapting to the Common Core standards and improved teacher evaluations has often been a big lift for our parents, students and staff. But these are crucial changes that were designed to prepare our students for the 21st-century workforce. Diplomas are no longer a piece of paper in the new economy, but an essential ticket for success.

What has been most important to you during your tenure?

Equality. The ability to offer families, regardless of who they are or where they live, high-quality options to be successful in today's demanding, 21st-century economy. We have an obligation to give every student the opportunity to achieve success.





Just a 'City Guy'

New York City Schools Chancellor Says 'Thank You' Before Stepping Down December 31st

"Serving as Schools Chancellor has been quite a ride - it won't be easy to say goodbye," says Chancellor Dennis Walcott, who will pass the torch to a new schools chief on December 31st. "But I didn't expect any of this to be easy."

For almost three years, Chancellor Walcott has run the largest school system in the country—now with more than 1.1 million students, 136,000 employees, and a \$24 billion budget—during a period of huge challenges and immense change.

The changes centered around his goal of making college and career readiness the public schools' primary mission. To that end, he opened over 150 schools, many of them geared toward getting kids on track for professions as varied as architecture to healthcare; oversaw

the adoption of the landmark new Common Core standards in classrooms and implemented a historic new system of developing and evaluating teachers.

"Not a single day went by without having to tackle something of enormous consequence."

The challenges included the worst storm in a generation—Hurricane Sandy—and a citywide school bus strike.

"Not a single day went by without having to tackle something of enormous consequence."

Going forward, he says he's looking forward to focusing on serving the community in some capacity and spending more time with his grandchildren. The Chancellor lives with his wife in the same Queens neighborhood where he grew up and went to public school. "I'm just a city guy," he says.

When reflecting on his time as schools chancellor, Walcott says he feels he's left the city's public school system with better options for families. He talks about "those in the thick of it" being responsible for some of the most striking changes: "Our students, teachers, parents, and staff have done a terrific job raising the bar, demanding and expecting success from themselves and one another. They're the ones who have made my job an incredible experience."



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Starting January 1, 2014, the Department of Education's *GED Plus Sites*, which help prepare students for a High School Equivalency Diploma, will be renamed "Pathways to Graduation." These Pathways to Graduation sites will help prepare students for the new TASC® (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) exam, which will replace the GED® beginning in early 2014.

Additional information about Pathways to Graduation and the new TASC exam is available by calling (718) 557-2525.

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**MON, DEC. 23-
WED, JAN. 1**

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THURS, JAN. 2

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To nominate a teacher visit nyc.gov and search for Big Apple Awards.

Nominations must be submitted by Friday, January 17, 2014

By the beard of Zeus, this sequel is pretty insane

Inevitable sequel. "Anchorman 2" has jokes about CNN, fried bats and Madame Curie's nether regions.

As a performer, Will Ferrell tends to stand stiffly and shout and make loud noises and generally do everything he can to attract attention. But he's by nature a collaborator. There's a marked difference between the Will Ferrell in for-hire movies, like "Blades of Glory" and "The Campaign," and the Will Ferrell who writes with director Adam McKay. "Anchorman," from 2004, was the first of these, and one can detect in it, "Talladega Nights," "Step Brothers," and "The Other Guys" a



The "Anchorman" team hits the 1980s. / PARAMOUNT PICTURES

next-level creativity that comes with working with someone even more in love with the absurd and surreal.

This is to say, if someone's going to rehash a modest hit that became an overly quoted cult sensation, it might as well be Ferrell and McKay. "Anchorman" was a regularly odd movie, but "Anchorman 2" goes even further. Now somewhere in the early 1980s, Ferrell's well-coifed, haughty but incompetent Ron Burgundy has transplanted to New York City. He loses his job and his wife (Christina Applegate), but suddenly finds himself working with a new channel launching a dangerous, crazy-sounding concept

called "24-hour news."

CNN and Fox News are silly enough as is that the digs at them are only moderately amusing. But despite their love for them, topical jokes have never been Ferrell and McKay's true strengths. Nonsense and nonsequiturs are. They lead a sprawling cast to some strange places, be it alpha male "Champ" Kind (David Koechner) opening a chain that offers fried bats or a news segment ranking the best-ever female genitalia (number two: Madame Curie).

The sequel regurgitates a couple couldn't-resist moments, including an escalated melee that lacks the first one's element of

surprise. There's a lack of instant classic quotables, but given how ubiquitous "Anchorman" lines are, that's a good thing.



MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

Review

'Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues'

Director: Adam McKay

Stars: Will Ferrell, Steve Carell

Rating: PG-13

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Unleashing a 'Monster and Angel'



Judith Hill is an artist to watch for 2014. / SMALLZ RASKIND

'20 Feet' closer. The singer talks about past projects and the rise to stardom.

If you got to know the music of Judith Hill from her participation in the movie "20 Feet from Stardom" or from her turn on "The

Voice," you still don't know the music of Judith Hill.

The vocalist is currently working on her debut album (she doesn't consider her participation on last year's "Red Hook Summer" soundtrack a proper debut) which she hopes to have out in April.

"It's a soulful record with hip-hop beats and it has some poppy elements and is very vocal-driven," she says of the as-yet-untilled work-in-progress. Title possibilities for the album include "Beautiful Life" and "Monster and Angel" — She says that the latter represents the many aspects of her personality.

"I think for me, this will be a real debut, because it represents all of these different sides of me,"

Q&A

At what point do you say, "No, I'm not a background singer at all anymore!"?

I think it depends on the circumstance. I'm happy to do it if I'm available to do it, because it's just a really fun, unique opportunity. I always put my solo music first though, even if it's me performing smaller solo gigs. So the background singing has kind of taken a backseat. But I'm not opposed to it. It's always a great experience and you make great friends and you grow a lot from doing it.

she says. "It will be a little more well-rounded. I think that the ["Red Hook Summer"] album was more ballads, and this one will have more of an edge to it."

After "20 Feet from Stardom," does Hill think it brought her any closer to, well, stardom?

"I feel like I'm right where I need to be, I'm not 20 feet away," she says. "Where I need to be is here. It's hard to define when you consider yourself successful. For me, success is doing what you love to do, and that's what I'm doing. I'll be excited when this album is finished though, I'll tell you that!"



PAT HEALY
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'Murder for Two.' He's half the battle

It's easy to forget, despite the name of the show, that everything happening onstage at "Murder for Two" (www.murderfortwo musical.com) rests on Brett Ryback and Jeff Blumenkrantz. An impressive amount of frenetic energy goes into the large cast of characters they create — while simultaneously accompanying each other on the Steinway.

The plot follows a murder that takes place during a cocktail party. Rookie cop Marcus (Ryback) arrives to interrogate the guests-turned-suspects, all played by Blumenkrantz.

We spoke to Ryback about playing the straight man in the fray.

Is it hard to act while playing the piano?

The music presents a unique challenge: What is happening in the character's mind is completely separate from either accompanying ourselves or accompanying the other person. There's one part where I'm interrogating the character of Dahlia while playing and trying to be completely unaware that I'm musically providing the accompaniment to what she's saying.

This show sets such a high bar for any performer.

It's also extremely satisfying, just the two of us for 90 minutes straight. And when we have a



Ryback plays it straight.
JOAN MARCUS

great show and they're up on their feet at the end, there's nothing more exciting.

What comes next?

Ultimately we have to keep the stakes high and always be moving it forward. It's easy to forget that and just go out and have too much fun. **JULIA FURLAN**

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The least expensive property to come on to the market is a studio located at 533 E. 84th St. Marketed by Rich Associates Real Estate LLC, this two-room studio has recently been renovated and features high ceilings, with closets and windows in every room.

StreetEasy.com is a New York-based real estate information portal that aggregates the most comprehensive set of sale and rental listings along with other useful info.





Artisanal finds at Whole Foods Gowanus

Sneak peek. We take a look at some exclusive local items at the new Brooklyn store.

After years of speculation, Whole Foods finally opened its doors in Gowanus on Tuesday — making it the company's first Brooklyn location.

The 56,000-square-foot gourmet food emporium will stock its aisles with tons of small-batch, artisanal, Brooklyn-made goods from purveyors who probably have old-timey mustaches and grew their ingredients on a rooftop farm somewhere. In other words: It sells everything you want in your pantry. We look at some of the specialty and exclusive items you can find there, in addition to a beer hall (on the



Good news: The Whole Foods Market Third & Third will deliver. PROVIDED

roof, of course).

Elly Truesdell, Whole Foods Market local forager for the Northeast — yes, this is her title — fills us in on what to look for.

What requirements did you have for the items being stocked at Gowanus?

"The real requirements here are that these

products are natural and never contain artificial ingredients, coloring, preservatives, etc. We asked the vendors, many of which we've worked with for a long time, to create something truly unique for us. Whether it be a new line, a new variety/flavor or a collaboration with another vendor. In the end, we were able to

curate an incredible list of items from the city's most talented producers."

What do you expect to fly off the shelves first?

"We think the exclusive beers from Evil Twin and Captain Lawrence will be really popular. Folks will likely line up to try YUJI Ramen at his new venue in the store, Roberta's new line of frozen pizza, and the new yogurt flavors we'll have from Chef Dan Barber's Blue Hill, White Moustache and Culture."

What items are you most excited about?

1 Van Leeuwen's line of vegan ice creams.

2 A variety of essences, powders and more from SOS Chefs.

3 Knife sharpening services from Christopher Harth of NYCutlery.

More at the market

- Rice & Miso Everyday's first ready-to-eat line of rice balls
- OMilk's Chocolate Peppermint Almond milk
- Anarchy in a Jar's Apple Fig jam featuring locally sourced figs and apples
- Baked's Vegan Vanilla

Hemp granola

- Cafe Grumpy's unique roast coffee
- Acme Brooklyn's cured Nova lox

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Make sure to pick up yogurts from Blue Hill, White Moustache and Culture. / PROVIDED



Chocolate beer, yum! / PROVIDED

4 Evil Twin Beer and Chocologie teamed up to brew a beer made from chocolate and a truffle made from a beer. The products don't have the name Even More Demark, and they're amazing.

5 Severino Pasta has come up with three new varieties of gnocchi, each made from local cheeses and local flour.

TINA CHADHA
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Downtown's Newest Rental Building, The Lara, Begins Leasing This Month

If you're looking for a new place to call home this winter, look no further than The Lara, the Financial District's highly anticipated new luxury rental tower featuring a 10,000-square-foot amenity club.

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State-of-the-art kitchens with paneled Blomberg and/or Liebherr appliances, as well as Bertazzoni oven ranges and microwaves, and baths featuring Duravit, Grohe and Kohler fixtures, are just some of the luxuries found in each spacious apartment.

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Be the first to experience The Lara. The on-site leasing office opens this month, and occupancy is expected for early 2014.

For more information,
visit **www.thelaranyc.com**.

THE LARA

New 'tallest residential building in SoHo' soon

Real estate. A new condo tower gets a green light from the land-use board.

Madison Equities and Property Markets Group have won unanimous approval from the city Board of Standards & Appeals for their design of a planned residential condominium project in SoHo.

The decision — expected, but still a relief — clears the way for the partners to start construction at the site, at 10 Sullivan St. or 120 Sixth Ave., this month, says Robert Gladstone, who heads up Madison. The new development, a 16-story Flatiron-shaped tower with four adjoining townhouses, will likely be completed by the second quarter of 2015. The spon-

sors have not yet released prices.

The partnership required the variance in order to build a residential building since the area is zoned for commercial and industrial uses.

"We were comfortable enough because there was a permit in place to build a hotel in the worst case scenario, but we also knew that the community wanted to see residential there," says Richard Lam, a partner in the project and a senior managing director at PMG.

The 204-foot-high tower was designed by architect-turned-developer Cary Tamarkin and will be his tallest project to date.

Situated on a triangular-shaped site on Sullivan Street and Sixth Avenue, the tower will feature rounded glass windows and a corbelled black and blonde Norman brick ex-

terior with large classic industrial-style windows.

"This will be the tallest residential building in SoHo," Gladstone says. "There's only one SoHo. I think the market is very much going to like what they see."

While the building was initially slated to have 27 units, the sponsors are now considering combining some of the smaller apartments. Each one will have 11-foot ceilings and heated floors, Gladstone says. Meanwhile, the four attached 25-foot-wide townhouses will be five stories apiece and each have elevators. **KATHERINE CLARKE**

Rihanna



Our kind of decorating

Rihanna is apparently converting three out of the four bedrooms in her New York City apartment into a closet, according to The New York Post. Also shocking (well, for us regular people anyway) is that the pop star apparently pays \$39,000 a month for the penthouse on Lafayette Street. Someone cue "Pour It Up." **METRO**

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Mindy Weiss shows us how to decorate on a budget

Decor. The high-end lifestyle expert partners with HomeGoods.

Event planner extraordinaire Mindy Weiss throws fabulous big-budget parties and weddings for A-list clients such as Fergie and Josh Duhamel, Jessica Simpson, Carmelo Anthony and Gwen Stefani, to name a few. So we were intrigued to see how the lifestyle expert — who recently teamed up with



Weiss
JAY LAWRENCE GOLDMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

HomeGoods — uses the affordable brand to decorate for the holiday season. She shares her tips and product picks here. **METRO**

Setting the table

"Each holiday, I like to add a new accent to my [dish] collection," says the avid flea market shopper. "Whether it is a new salad plate, or water glass or a bread plate, each little detail makes a big impact on a holiday table."

Cozy accents

To give your living room a seasonal face-lift, "change out your pillows and add new winter-y blankets and throws," Weiss advises. "Not only does it make for a new look, but if you move your guests outside for

some s'mores or a hot chocolate, they provide warmth."



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Fab on a budget

Weiss loves metallic accents to add a touch of glam. She says about her evolution: "I've gone from bronze, silver [and] copper, and this year I went gold!" This doesn't mean going over-the-top with, say, gold curtains; accessories such as vases, vases and napkins will do the trick.



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Put it on a tray

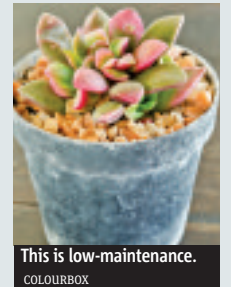
For the party-planner, fun with trays doesn't just stop at serving food and drinks. "I love displaying various sized candles on one and placing it on a coffee table," says Weiss. "I also love to buy little trays to put in the guest bathroom with perfumes, towels and a small votive candle."

With large trays, she gets a little more creative. "I love to place glass apothecary jars [on a tray] to make a mini candy shop, and I often use a large tray to make a hot fudge sundae bar for the family."

Gift idea

Green expert Danny Seo on giving plants

"A live plant is something that people can enjoy year-round, but many people don't naturally have a green thumb," says Seo, who clearly knows our friends. For plants that require little to no upkeep, he suggests flowering succulents, colorful cacti, mini olive trees and even potted evergreens. "These can be left outside during the winter months and planted when spring comes around," he says.



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2 bedroom	\$1,101	5	2 person ↓↓↓ 3 person ↓↓↓↓ 4 person ↓↓↓↓	\$39,806 - \$41,280 \$39,806 - \$46,440 \$39,806 - \$51,540
3 bedroom	\$1,263	1	3 person ↓↓↓↓ 4 person ↓↓↓↓ 5 person ↓↓↓↓ 6 person ↓↓↓↓	\$45,943 - \$46,440 \$45,943 - \$51,540 \$45,943 - \$55,680 \$45,943 - \$59,820

* Includes gas for cooking

** Household size includes everyone who will live with you, including parents and children. Subject to occupancy criteria.

*** Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income for household members, income guidelines subject to change.

How Do You Apply?
Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to: www.nyc.gov/housingconnect. To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed and stamped envelope with .66 cents postage to: Alphabet Plaza Apartments, c/o Housing Partnership Development Corporation, 242 West 36th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10018. Only send one application per development. Don't submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified.

When Is the Deadline?
Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than February 18, 2014. Late applications will not be considered.

What Happens After You Submit an Application?
After the deadline, applications are selected for review through a lottery process. If yours is selected and you appear to qualify, you will be invited to an interview to continue the process of determining your eligibility. Interviews are usually scheduled from 2 to 10 months after the application deadline. You will be asked to bring documents that verify your household size, identity of members of your household, and your household income.

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Alice Smith doesn't 'speak makeup'

Beauty. The soul singer loves her products — she just doesn't always like wearing them. She tells us about her sacred picks, "Ramona Quimby" hair and her trick for never waking up with dry skin.

Alice Smith's deep lyrical voice is so soothing it could almost put you to sleep. Luckily, the Grammy-nominee won't take offense if you do. Why? Because she believes that sleep is nature's way of helping you look pretty and fresh-faced. "Eye-bags are a sign that you either need to take a break or go to sleep. So if I'm working late one night, I just make sure I drink a lot of water and go straight to bed. That's it," she explains from her home in Brooklyn. And for

those rare moments when shut-eye isn't enough? "In that case I'll use a little bit of MAC Studio Finish Concealer," she adds.

Letting her skin make its own oil:

"I wash my face with Sothys Cleansing Cream twice a day, and in the morning I follow up with their Hydradvance Light Hydrating Cream. I don't put anything on at night because that's when your skin is busy working and making oil. You just have to make sure you use really good stuff. So far, I've never woken up with dry skin. I also see my facialist, Mamie McDonald, about once every six weeks and she just does what she needs to do. I always leave with a really clean face!"

Her beauty icons:

"I love Sade. She's so beautiful."



Not needing foundation — ever:

"I love makeup, but I don't speak makeup. I don't wear a lot of it because it's not good for your complexion. But if I feel a little washed out, I'll do my eyebrows up a little and put some mascara on. But I never wear founda-

tion — ever — definitely not when I'm onstage. I want to be able to touch my face. And it's not like I'm a big sweater, but I might sweat. When I'm performing, I stick to brows, lashes and lips. I love a burnt sienna lipstick, but you have to be really feeling it to pull such a bold color off. And

I always carry a tin of Burt's Bees Beeswax Lip Balm with me."

Her new album 'She' and making it through the music industry unscathed:

Her 'Ramona

Quimby' hair

"I used to dye my hair in college, and it was, like, orange! I don't think it was meant to be that color. But I liked it. I had a fringe and a short bob, which made me look like Ramona Quimby!"

"I've always had a lot of support. My family and my friends have always been there for me. I have a 3-year-old daughter now, and she's made me reevaluate and reexamine who I am and who I need to be. For me, it's about what kind of person I'm trying to encourage her to be — how to be successful, how to care for herself. And because the only way to teach things is to show, I need to be able to show her how to do all that."



ROMINA MCGUINNESS
romina.mcguinness@metro.lu



Products. Smith lets us take a peek inside her makeup bag

1 L'Oreal Voluminous Mascara

"I love this because it doesn't come off or flake up. You're not going to have any mascara sitting under your lashes."



2 Stila Stay All Day Waterproof Liquid Eye Liner

"I'm always on the road and they sell this at Sephora, meaning I can always get my hands on one when I run out."



3 MAC Cosmetics Mineralize Skinfinish Natural Powder

"I use this as a highlighter. I like the fact it blends in really nicely and doesn't make my face shine."



4 NARS Cosmetics Velvet Matte Lip Pencil in Dragon Girl

"I love the fact I can use this to color my entire lip in one go."



5 Mac Eye Brows in Spiked

"This is perfect for when you want to add depth to your brows."



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5

Best tech toys of 2013

Here's what to buy the nerds.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Minecraft Magnet Set

These would go great on a friend's fridge — especially if your friend stays up all night building infinite worlds and drinking Red Bull.

\$14.99, ThinkGeek.com

Jawbone Mini Jambox

It looks like a big lego, but in fact it's a small speaker — palm-sized, and one of the best to travel with. **\$179.99, JawBone.com**



Bose Quiet Comfort 15

You paid how much for headphones??? That's the beauty of it being the holidays: Someone should buy these for you. Of the noise-cancellers, they're the best of the best.

\$269.95, Bose.com

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EAT, DRINK AND BE HEALTHY



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Be careful with those Christmas kisses! / FUSE

The holidays are a time to burn the candle at both ends, but you have to be careful not to flame out. The pressure and stress from a combination of year-end work commitments, social events, family get-togethers, shopping and financial strain can easily weaken or overwhelm your immune system. The usual seasonal increase in colds and flu at this time of year makes it even more important to do everything you can to avoid illness when you can least afford to be down and out.

Eating

Make sure you don't eat too much or too little. Overindulging will not only put on a few extra holiday pounds, but it makes you more likely to develop esophageal reflux from a distended stomach at bedtime. This overnight trickle of stomach acid bubbling up into the back of your throat while lying flat in bed can not only cause heartburn but may also lead to a sore throat or dry cough. This is a nuisance that is often mistaken for an upper respi-

Spread cheer, not disease

Being healthy

The 2013-14 influenza season has officially arrived in the U.S., and there is a variety of cold viruses around that have been making people miserable with sore throats, nasal congestion and coughs. Shaking hands, kissing under the mistletoe (or anywhere else)

and traveling on a plane can all spread illness rapidly. Get a flu shot, wash your hands frequently, keep them away from your face and blow kisses where you can. Lastly, if you happen to hook up, use condoms — no one wants an STD for Christmas.

ratory infection (common cold), and it may actually increase your odds of getting a sinus infection or bronchitis.

Eating too little may make you more likely to get intoxicated if you're drinking, as the alcohol in a glass of holiday cheer is absorbed much more quickly from an empty stomach.

Drinking

With so many social obligations and reasons to celebrate, there are ample opportunities to drink alcohol on a daily basis — and lots of it. "Everything

in moderation" should be your motto. Try to drink a glass of water with each alcoholic beverage (one for one). No matter your sex, weight or choice of adult beverage, if you have two or more drinks in under two hours, you will likely be impaired. Don't drink and drive, and don't let your friends drink and drive. Work out a designated driver in advance with friends, take a taxi or public transportation and don't be afraid to ask if you can sleep over at your host's or friend's home if driving under the influence is your only other option. Drinking coffee will not sober you up.

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Hip bridge on ball

Lying on your back, place your feet up on a medicine ball. If you don't have a medicine ball, use an ottoman or a couch (we used a desk chair!). With your hands by your side, using your core, thrust your hips up.

1

Hinge crunches with feet on ball with roll-in

With your feet on the medicine ball, perform a crunch, and while you curl in, pull the ball in with your feet.

2

Dumbbell triceps extension

Lying on your back holding dumbbells overhead, bend at the elbow and lower the dumbbells so they touch the floor vertically. Press them back up. In the up position, the dumbbells should be horizontal.

3

Here's your winter workout

It's freezing outside — we don't blame you for wanting to curl up under the covers and do nothing. But not so fast: You can still get in a calorie-torching workout in the comfort of your living room — no spin bike or row machine necessary. Gunnar Peterson, who has whipped the Kardashians, Bruce Willis and Jennifer Lopez into shape, taught us this workout that you can do sans a gym membership. Do 12-20 reps of each exercise depending on your fitness level, unless otherwise noted. **MEREDITH ENGEL**

Do 50-100 skips with a jump rope

Try playing up the footwork if you get bored easily. Remember that jumping high isn't the goal — you just need to jump enough to clear the rope.

Resistance band pull-down, rear lunges

Hold a resistance band behind your head so that you feel tension. Step backward and perform a lunge, pulling the band. Repeat on the other leg.

**Banded 4x4s**

Tie the resistance band around your calves. Enter into a squat. Take 10 lateral steps to the left, then do 10 more to the right. Take 10 steps forward with the bands on, and 10 back.

**Side plank rotations and side hip bridge**

A) Lie on your right side and enter a side plank. Extend your left arm up. Scoop that arm under your right armpit, reaching as far as you can. Return arm back to the sky. Repeat on other side.



B) Enter a side plank. Lift the hips into a bridge 12-20 times. Repeat on the other side.



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Push-ups with dumbbell renegade row



Get into pushup position, holding two dumbbells. Do a pushup. On the up position, row each arm (like you're pulling the weight toward your body). Put weights down and perform another pushup.

Windmill planks



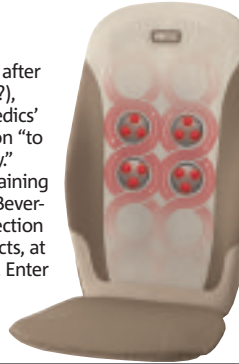
Hold an extended-arm plank for 10 seconds. Windmill both arms. Repeat five times.

ALL IMAGES MILES DIXON

Rest

If you can't afford a massage after every workout (and who can?), Peterson recommends HoMedics' Dual Shiatsu Massage Cushion "to relieve and reward your body."

You can win a personal training session with Peterson at his Beverly Hills studio, plus a full collection of HoMedics Massage products, at www.sweeps.homedics.com. Enter through Dec. 26. / PROVIDED



Advice

Excuses, excuses

We've already tackled the "But it's too cold to exercise" lie. Here, Peterson rips your other excuses to shreds.

"But I don't have time"
"Prioritize it. Don't just say it's a priority and cancel it because if you cancel it then it couldn't have been a priority. Treat it like a job interview. Would you have blown that off? You have to lock it in, and anything else that comes up, say no."



GUNNAR PETERSON

"But I can't afford any equipment"
"[Get] basic stuff: A couple bands, dumbbells. You don't need a mat, you can use a towel. I would skip two dinners and buy the gym equipment because I want it bad enough."

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Health notes



On your mark, get set ... Happy New Year! / ED HAAKS

New year's fitness

Get a leg up on your resolution with these fitness happenings.

1 Start your 2014 on the right foot — literally — at the New York Road Runners' annual **Midnight Run** sponsored by Emerald Nuts. The all-night party begins with a costume contest, dancing and fire-works before segueing into

a four-mile run in Central Park. Sign up at www.nyrr.com.

2 The **JCC** (334 Amsterdam Ave., 646-505-5708) will host an open house from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on New Year's Day, with Zumba, indoor cycling, nutrition consultations and more.

3 Alvin Ailey's **"Get Fit in '14"** program kicks off Jan. 2. Participants can take 14 classes in 14 days for the price of 10 classes. All dance levels are welcome.

Sign up at www.aileyextension.com.

Scary stat

Thirty-eight percent of Americans feel less informed about the Affordable Care Act over the past month, a month after the start of open enrollment, according to Consumer Reports. They created www.healthlawhelper.org to help people make sense of the new law.

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Horoscope

♐ **Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21.** Expand your horizons and mingle with people who can provide you with new information and general mental stimulation.

♑ **Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20.** Put in the extra time at work to make financial gains. Discuss your career plans with your partner.

♒ **Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18.** Expressing your thoughts and ideas will impress your friends. Be sure to eliminate any bad habits that have managed to creep into your life. Avoid getting involved in hurtful gossip.

♓ **Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20.** Take care of any nagging health concerns in order to avoid being out of commission in the future. Pay close attention to family matters.

♈ **Aries | March 21-April 20.** A good friendship could develop into a serious romantic partnership. Although this is a time to welcome change, stability is a possibility.

♉ **Taurus | April 21-May 21.** Focus on making money as well as taking care of your responsibilities at home. Make an effort to give your partner some extra TLC.

♊ **Gemini | May 22-June 20.** Personal changes will have a favorable effect on your appearance. Now is the time to entertain as well as to be entertained.

♋ **Cancer | June 21-July 22.** Be cautious while traveling. Stay in control of your emotions and don't allow them to interfere with your work. Take time to relax and enjoy yourself.

♌ **Leo | July 23-Aug. 22.** Your generosity will result in financial loss or family difficulties. Someone near to your heart may try to control you.

♍ **Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** The opportunity is likely for romance through a work associate. Be sure to evaluate the situation carefully before you proceed.

♎ **Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22.** Overindulgence will result in frustrating issues with your weight. Make plans that involve physical activity. Someone you love will feel neglected.

♏ **Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21.** This is a good date to change your living arrangements or to investigate some real estate deals.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	3				2	8		
6		8						
	9	2			3	6		
8				2			5	
2	5		9	7	6		3	8
	4			5				7
		3	7			2	6	
					7			3
		4	6				9	

			4					
1	8			7			4	2
		5			1		3	7
	1		7			6		3
	4						5	
8		7			6		2	
7	3		1			2		
2	6			9			1	8
				3				

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across

- 1 Stay on the line
- 5 Battery terminal
- 10 FBI agent (hyph.)
- 14 Writer James —
- 15 Big-eyed monkey
- 16 Verne captain
- 17 Be sincere
- 18 Lets use
- 19 Mont Blanc and Jungfrau
- 20 Zoo
- 22 — -craftsy
- 23 Type of doll
- 24 Cowboy's sweetie
- 25 Drinks
- 29 From memory (2 wds.)
- 33 Graceful wraps
- 34 Ski lift (hyph.)
- 36 Designer label
- 37 Onassis nickname
- 38 Masked swordsman
- 39 Paris street
- 40 Jai —
- 42 Shampoo additive
- 43 Golfer Calvin —
- 45 Purplish-red
- 47 Shrank from
- 49 Reimburse
- 50 Timetable abbr.
- 51 Creak
- 54 Swamp hazard
- 60 Fishing gear
- 61 Molds and mildews

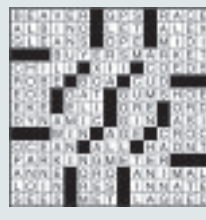
- 62 "Aquarius" musical
- 63 Fifi's friend
- 64 Weighed down
- 65 1977 whale movie
- 66 Convinced
- 67 Light incense to
- 68 Bristle with

Down

- 1 Jon — of "Mad Men"
- 2 Ess molding
- 3 Bend forward
- 4 Ancient Roman coins
- 5 Claim
- 6 Poet's contraction
- 7 Old Dodge model
- 8 Tenderfoot
- 9 Uh cousins
- 10 Knotty
- 11 Dissolve
- 12 Electrical units
- 13 Too curious
- 21 Schmoozes
- 22 Contented murmur
- 24 Food-court choice
- 25 Sir — Newton
- 26 She followed Ivana
- 27 Prickle
- 28 Evening wrap
- 29 Unveiled
- 30 Hung in the sun
- 31 Trip itinerary

- 32 Brought to bay
- 35 Buddy, for short
- 38 Wacky
- 41 Staked a vampire
- 43 Fringe benefit
- 44 Close range
- 46 — Holm of "Alien"
- 48 Wisconsin city
- 51 Mardi —
- 52 San — (resort near Monaco)
- 53 Eye, to Pierre
- 54 Dorm view
- 55 Take apart
- 56 Disney CEO Bob —
- 57 Berne's river
- 58 Warm-hearted
- 59 Tot of whiskey
- 61 Gulf st.

Yesterday's answer



Letters

At long last, have you lost your sense of decency, Metro?

Re: 'Top pop culture moments of 2013' (Metro, Dec. 16) I get that your entertainment pages aim for a funny, snarky tone, but I thought some of the commentators for your "Top pop culture moments in 2013" piece crossed the line from clever to offensive regarding the deaths of

Paul Walker and Cory Monteith.

Rachel Vigoda's pithy "Did anyone actually care about Paul Walker?" ignores both his fans and the daughter he left behind, while Tina Chadha's "the world lost a really pretty face" is obnoxiously shallow.

Meredith Engel praises Cory Monteith's "sweet voice" and "piercing eyes" but then references Lea Michele "beard[ing]" for him, a bizarre and ill-conceived attempt at gay rumor-mongering that flutters in the face of "Glee"'s anti-bullying, pro-LGBT stance. Have some decency, people.

JUSTIN LOCKWOOD, VIA EMAIL

Online

Read letters at Metro.us

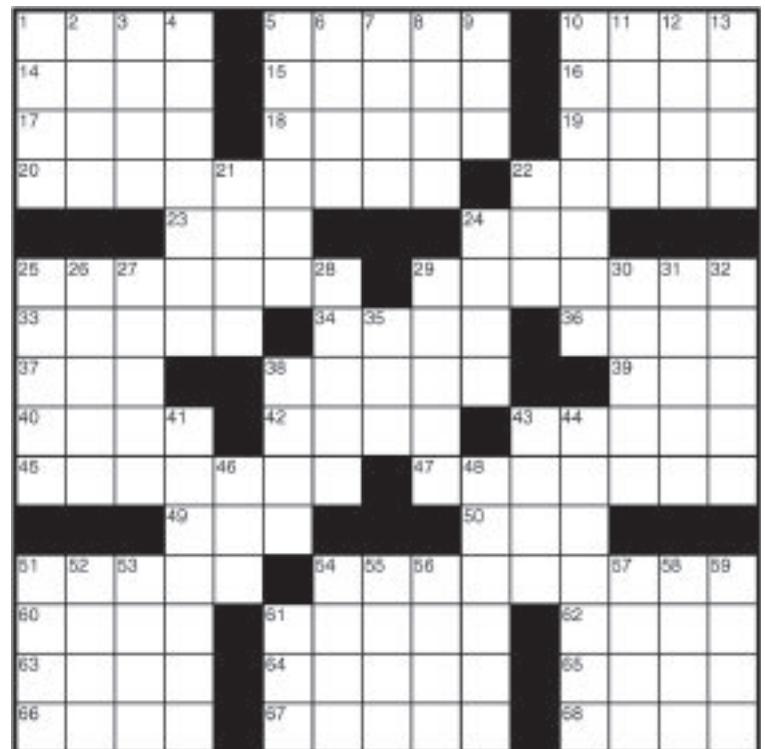
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Simplicity on defense rules the day for Nets

NBA. Deron Williams admitted the reassignment of Lawrence Frank has helped in the team's turnaround.

As the Nets try to explain how they've gone from being embarrassed by 30 points at home by the Knicks to winning four of their last five games, the buzzword has been "simplify."

According to head coach Jason Kidd, the process of simplifying matters began before a 90-82 win in Milwaukee that saw the Nets emphasize Brook Lopez on offense while allowing a season-low in points.

"That's as good as it gets when you simplify things and guys have bought in and guys are doing it at a high level right now," Kidd said.

The question of what simplification means is tougher to answer.

Kevin Garnett has made it a point of emphasis during recent postgame interviews, saying how simpler the defensive schemes are.

Deron Williams, however, gave the most clear-cut revelation on why that transition has taken place in the seven games since assistant coach Lawrence Frank was reassigned by



Joe Johnson and the Nets have recommitted to defense in the absence of Lawrence Frank. / GETTY IMAGES

By the numbers

101.3

The Nets currently rank No. 22 in the NBA in points allowed per game at 101.3. That number is actually on the decline though, as they allowed 103.3 points per game in two blowouts by the Knicks and Nuggets.

head coach Kidd on Dec. 3. "Lawrence was always kind of the defensive guy, so he was talking on defense and he was definitely long-winded when it came to teaching," Williams said after Tuesday's practice in Brooklyn. "We're a veteran group, we get things pretty easily. So at times

when you're just talking and we're not practicing, it gets a little lengthy. But I think J-Kidd does a good job of getting his points across quick and easy, and then we move on."

LARRY FLEISHER
sports@metro.us

Lopez likely back

After it initially looked like Brook Lopez would be back against the Sixers, it seems more likely that he will be back tonight at 7:30 p.m. when they face the Wizards.

- "I don't expect to get overruled tomorrow, but we'll see when the time comes," Lopez said. "In my mind, I feel confident I'll be playing tomorrow, but then again, how'd that work out last time? You guys can believe me, though, I promise."
- Lopez joked Joe Johnson was "all right" in his 29-point third quarter Monday.

3

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Spending spree

Yankees sign Roberts, Thornton

The Yankees went on a 24-hour spending spree — for spare parts, anyway.

Multiple sources report the Yankees will sign former Orioles second baseman Brian Roberts to a one-year contract.

Roberts is four years removed from being the elite player he once was for Baltimore. He's dealt with a litany of injuries over the last four years,



Thornton didn't pitch in the playoffs for Boston. / GETTY IMAGES

including back, knee and hamstring injuries. He also missed extended time with a serious concussion.

It's unlikely Roberts

is a one-to-one replacement for Robinson Cano, but he can provide depth in the infield.

The Yankees also signed middle reliever

Matt Thornton to a two-year, \$7 million deal, according to his agent.

Thornton, the second member of last year's Red Sox World Series team to sign in New York this offseason, essentially replaces lefty specialist Boone Logan, who signed a three-year, \$16.5 million deal with the Rockies this offseason.

Thornton had his best seasons with the White Sox where he had an ERA under 3.00 each season from 2008 to 2010. He pitched at least 60 innings each year.

MARK OSBORNE

NFL power rankings | by Mike Greger

No. 1

Seahawks
(12-2)

The Seahawks are two wins away from posting the best record in franchise history. They have at least three players making strong cases for overall league MVP — Richard Sherman, Earl Thomas and Marshawn Lynch — and they possess that rare blend of confidence and swagger. The only real question is can they win a Super Bowl played outdoors in frigid New Jersey?



No. 2

49ers
(10-4)

Well, this has to suck for Jim Harbaugh. The 49ers, barring a collapse by Seattle, will probably be the No. 6 seed.

No. 3

Broncos
(11-3)

We all knew the blueprint to beat Denver, but San Diego executed it to perfection. Keep the ball from Peyton Manning.

No. 4

Saints
(10-4)

New Orleans has bounced in and out of the Top 5, rising as high as No. 2. Still, they're just 3-4 away from home.

No. 5

Panthers
(10-4)

Last week was the type of trap game Cam Newton probably loses in previous seasons. Not anymore.

No. 6

Chiefs
(11-3)

We got a good chuckle watching Jamaal Charles shred the Raiders for five touchdowns, and dash the fantasy football dreams of a loyal reader.

No. 7

Patriots
(10-4)

Even Superman makes mistakes. Remember when he turned back time to save Lois? Well, Tom Brady is the same.

No. 8

Bengals
(9-5)

Cincinnati woke up in an old-school house of horrors, only Pittsburgh isn't Freddy Krueger anymore.

No. 9

Colts
(9-5)

Houston, the solution for all that ails you. Perhaps Indy can build off that productive first half and wake up the offense.

No. 10

Eagles
(8-6)

Chip Kelly's worst game of the season, from bad play-calling to the decision to go for a fourth down inside his own 30.

No. 11

Cardinals
(9-5)

We've said it before and we're saying it again: Can the NFL figure out a way to get three teams in from the NFC West? This team is fun to watch.

No. 12

Ravens
(8-6)

Keep an eye on Joe Flacco's ankle. Is there any chance Baltimore misses the postseason? Only if Flacco is hurt.

No. 13

Dolphins
(8-6)

Is Joe Philbin Coach of the Year? He kept the team afloat after Hazing Gate. Of course, Hazing Gate might've been his fault.

No. 14

Bears
(8-6)

Jay Cutler got the win, but somehow we would feel a lot more comfortable with Josh McCown under center.

No. 15

Chargers
(7-7)

Philip Rivers has been just as good as Peyton Manning this year. He's on pace to shatter multiple career highs.

No. 16

Lions
(7-7)

When Calvin Johnson starts dropping passes on Monday Night Football, maybe it's just not your year. Get the resume ready, Jim Schwartz.

No. 17

Packers
(7-6-1)

Circle Wednesday as the day we find out if Aaron Rodgers returns to the suddenly resurgent Packers.

No. 18

Steelers
(6-8)

Antonio Brown re-deemed himself a week too late. Too bad, because the Steelers would be a scary playoff team.

No. 19

Cowboys
(7-7)

We can count on three things: Death, taxes and Tony Romo losing in December, when the QB is now 11-17.

No. 20

Rams
(6-8)

St. Louis has shown flashes this season, especially at home. But on the road, they are just 2-5.

No. 21

Titans
(5-9)

Tennessee is like the kid on the playground who always shows up, always hustles, but never wins. They get an A for effort.

No. 22

Jets
(6-8)

Does head coach Rex Ryan keep his job? It's really the only thing left to talk about after being eliminated from the playoffs Monday night.

No. 23

Bills
(5-9)

Rookie E.J. Manuel has two more games to prove Buffalo shouldn't draft another quarterback in April.

No. 24

Giants
(5-9)

The single-season interception record is safe — unless Eli Manning averages 8.5 picks per game the rest of the way.

No. 25

Vikings
(4-9-1)

Did the Vikings contact Penn State coach Bill O'Brien? We are very, very intrigued by the possibility.

No. 26

Browns
(4-10)

So we have discovered the Browns can't win even with Jay Cutler trying his hardest to give a game away.

More rankings

More of an NBA fan than an NFL one? Don't worry, we've got you covered on the hardwood, too. Check out our NBA power rankings every Tuesday on www.metro.us/sports.

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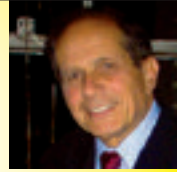
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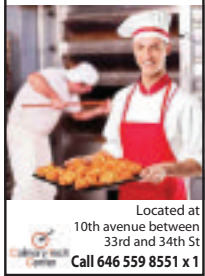
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SALES: Frozen, fresh, dehydrated vegetables distributor in Bronx needs a responsible & hard working person for sales. Bilingual ok. Fax: 718-617-2377 or Sales1cd33@gmail.com

Miscellaneous

Looking for a Fresh Start & \$\$\$ for the Holidays?!
Embrace a NEW and REWARDING Opportunity in the Largest Industry. Paid Weekly, Multiple Bonus Programs & Growth Opportunity
EARN UP TO \$1200/WK
Training Available for Those Willing to Learn and Interact with People
Call 718-210-3642

Looking for a Fresh Start & \$\$\$ for the Holidays?!
Embrace a NEW and REWARDING Opportunity in the Largest Industry. Paid Weekly, Multiple Bonus Programs & Growth Opportunity
EARN UP TO \$1200/WK
Training Available for Those Willing to Learn and Interact with People
Call 718-210-3642

★ AUTO MECHANIC ★
Computer & Electric General Diagnostics. Exp necessary. Must have own tools. Call 718-421-9700

Deli Cook / Prep Needed
Experience Preferred.
Call or email Banti Nath
bath@kollacall.com or 917-251-7779

DIESEL & GASOLINE MECHANICS
School Bus Co. Full & Part time.
Union Shop Apply in person:
1 Coffey St, Bklyn. 718-632-0286

★ ELEVATOR MECHANIC ★
Must be able to do installation, wiring, testing, gas-cutting, & welding.
Call 718-996-6661

LICENSED EXTERMINATORS
needed (certification 7a & above will do) for fast growing Bklyn firm. Immediate openings avail. Call weekday for interview: 718-469-9174.

FACTORY WORKER - Established
Queens Chemical Co. seeks Exp w/HAZMAT/SHIPPING/LOGISTICS. Good Benefits. Call 718-672-8300 x 14

GENERAL MAINTENANCE
No exp nec. FT/PT, all 5 Boro, start ASAP. Up to \$17/hr.
Call 212-685-604

Healthy individuals with chronic
pain (men and women, ages 21-45) who have difficulty taking pain medication as directed are needed for an approximately 3.5-4 week inpatient study investigating medication effects at the NY State Psychiatric Institute. Earn \$1400. Call the Substance Use Research Center at 646-774-6263.

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Jobs

General Help Wanted

Intravenous & Intranasal HEROIN USERS (men and women, aged 21-55 yrs) needed for 3-week inpatient study of medication effects at the NY State Psychiatric Institute. Earn up to \$1,200.
Call the Substance Use Research Center at 646-774-6243.

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Lobby Attendants/ Receptionists Morn/Overnight shifts. Benefits + Union 401k. Pays up to \$20.45/hr. Call 646-724-4462

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Ultrasound Med Assistant (RMA) Pharmacy Tech (PTCB) Dialysis Technician

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EKG & Phlebotomy Combo.....\$699
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Medical Billing (CBCS).....\$699
Med Off Administration (CMAA).....\$999
Pharmacy Technician (PTCB).....\$999
CPR (By American Heart Association Valid 2yrs).....\$80
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Nurse Aide (CNA) EKG & Phlebotomy Patient Care tech (PCT) Dental Assistant Pharmacy Tech. (PhT) MS Office / CPR



Financial Aid Available If You Qualify

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Financial Aid if qualify Licensed by NYSED



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Pay up to \$13.25 an hour.
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Bklyn. 718-485-8002

Training

HOME HEALTH AIDE/CNA TRAINING
NYSED PCA to HHA upgrade.
Call 718-323-3050

181EXTERMINATION/TERMITE CERTIFICATION
NYS cert. 69 days. Jobsatz Finl! ad if qual. 24hr 718-205-0557/800-220-5494

Legal Notices

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number 1274922 for Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 965 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10021 for on-premise consumption. Mariella Bella Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number 1275000 for Liquor, Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 103-19 Metropolitan Ave. Forest Hills, NY 11375 for on-premise consumption. Dirty Pierre South Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number 1294316 for Liquor, Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 130 Route 22, Pawling, NY 12564 for on-premise consumption. 13th Step LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number 1274333 for Restaurant Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer and Wine at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 41-08 149th St, Flushing, NY for on-premises consumption. CC Chicken Corp.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number 1274015 for Beer, Wine & Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer Wine & Liquor at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 191 5th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11217 for on-premises consumption. Bierkraft, Inc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO LAW,
that the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 02, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at 66 John Street, 11th floor, on a petition from Amsterdam Ale House Incorporated to continue to, maintain, and operate an unenclosed sidewalk café at 340 Amsterdam Avenue in the Borough of Manhattan for a term of two years.

REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF THE PROPOSED REVOCABLE CONSENT AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOI OFFICER, 42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004.

PLACE A LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICE:

Name Changes, Liquor Licenses, Sidewalk Café
Call for quote

(212) 457,7856 or jim.colarusso@metro.us

Real Estate/Sale



PUBLISHERS NOTE
All real estate advertising herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 and state and local fair housing laws. The Fair Housing Act makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. State or local laws may make unlawful advertising that discriminates on the basis of age, marital status, or sexual orientation. Metro US will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which violates the law. The law requires that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis. If you have any questions regarding housing discrimination, call the Long Island Housing Services at (800) 660-6920 in Long Island or the Anti-Discrimination Center at (212) 346-7600 in New York City. To file a complaint call HUD toll-free at (800) 669-9777 or the New York City Commission on Human Rights at (212) 306-7500

JACKSON HEIGHTS 2 FAMILY
Fully renovated, 3/3 fully finished basement, driveway. 718-300-7057
Call Maybell Hablamos Espanol

JAMAICA 1 FAMILY RANCH
2BR, pool, 40X140 lot, full bsmt, Nice quiet area. Ask \$365K.
Call owner 917-705-7152, 917-690-2274

Springfield * Brk. Renov. 2 Fam, 8 Bdrm, 5 Bd, Drivwy, For Sale. Principals Only. Owner 347-465-6400

Real Estate/Rent

13/Alexander 1 Stop Month New 2nd flr 2br \$1600, 1st flr renov 2br \$1101 Anderson 2br \$1101, 149 St 1br \$909, Alorton 2br \$1285, Palumbo Bay 1br \$1030, Susan 718-665-3333 391 E 149 Rm 212

Bedford Park * Moshulu Play So.
Near Park, Garden, Zoo, Trans.
1 br \$975. Well Maintained.
1st mo rent free! Agt 718-657-1085

Crown Hts * Lefferts Av/Washington
Well maint. Rent stabilized building. Near shops/trans. 1 br 1575/mo. 1st mo rent free. Agent 718-657-1085

FLATBUSH E. 17th off Beverly Rd.
Well Maintained Rent Stabilized Bldg. Studio \$1050. 1st mo rent free. Agent 718-657-1085

Middle Basin 2 Br apt, 2 Fam house,
front/rear porch, jacuzzi, Hthwtr, gas incl. \$1530/mo. Credit ok & refs. Principals only. Owner 718-495-6840

Prospect Pk Ocean Av Corner Parkside
2 br \$1525 in well maintained, rent stabilized bldg. Holid flrs. Across the St. from park, subways/shops. 1st 12 mo rent free. Agent 718-657-1085

***RUGBY* E. 50th St & Church Ave.**
Well maintained, rent stabilized bldg. 1 br \$1025. 2 br \$1325. 1st month rent free. * Agent 718-657-1085 *

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Homes

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Renov 1 BR Apt, LR, DR, EIK, Ask \$1300/mo. Available for Immediate Occupancy. Owner 516-488-1720

ELMHURST - 3 BR, fully renov, 1st flr, EIK, 2 blocks to R/M trains, bus Q29, mall & schls. No pet/smo smks. Utls incl Refs ok. Owner 609-516-0249

For Rockaway Apt for Rent
2 BR newly renov \$1500/mo. Sec 8 ok. Mgmt Co. 646-330-5520 M-F 9am-5pm Email areacodejardene@gmail.com

FAR ROCKAWAY NEWLY RENOV
3 BRS, 2 BTHS \$2000/MONTH. SECTION 8 OK. CALL OWNER 718-896-0223 OR CELL 347-556-5278

Jamaica's. Ozone Pk - Lovely 2 Br in 2 fam, 1st flr, own entry, full ba, lge LR, EIK, \$1350/mo + 2 mo sec. No Smoking/No Pets. Ownr 718-611-6543

SUFFERIN 1 BR, Den, 1.5 Bath
Elev bldg and generator HT/HW incl. \$1550. Leasing Office open Mon.Tues & Fri. 10-12 & 1-5pm Sat & Sun 1-5pm For info call 646-368-0700

Break 1 Bed Apt Starting at \$775/mo.
Trans nearby. Call 212-552-3810 or 718-644-4816 offer 5pm & Saturday's

Commercial

University Ave * Professional Office
Space for Rent. 1500 SF, Space Avail. after Jan 1 2014. Call 718-884-6339

Condos

Mt. Vernon Lg 1 br Co-op Kitchenette
spac fr, lots of closets, full bath, 700 sq ft. free street parking. Near all trans & shops. \$39,700 Owner 717-76-6633

Homes

CAMBRIA HEIGHTS: 1 Family
house for rent. 3 BR, LR, DR, KIT, 1.5 BTHS, full bsmt. \$275/MO. + utls. Owner 631-789-2316

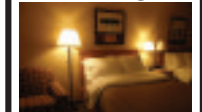
Miscellaneous

Mott Haven Furnished Room Avail.
Near ALL, \$20 per wk utilities incl, 2wks rent, 2wks sec female prtd. Owner 917-912-8708 off 6pm

BROWNSVILLE/CHESTER ST.
Furn'd Spacious Rm, All New, No Smoking, \$175/wk. 1 wk rent + 2 wks sec. Call Owner 347-385-4104

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Utilities Included
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This is the watch Stephen Hollingshead, Jr. was wearing when he encountered a drunk driver.
Time of death 6:55pm.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



Photo by Michael Mazzeo



LAST 2 DAYS! SHOP 7AM-MIDNIGHT WED, DEC. 18 & THURS, DEC. 19

THE GREAT GIFT SALE

30%-75% OFF STOREWIDE SAVINGS!

TAKE AN EXTRA \$10 OFF* WED 'TIL 1PM OR THURS 'TIL 1PM

OR TAKE AN EXTRA 20% OR 15% OFF* WITH YOUR MACY'S CARD OR PASS

★ macy's **WOW! \$10 OFF**

ALL SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL AND SELECT HOME ITEMS
VALID 12/18 'TIL 1PM OR 12/19 'TIL 1PM.
CANNOT BE USED ON SPECIALS OR SUPER BUYS

\$10 OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$25 OR MORE.

VALID 12/18 'TIL 1PM OR 12/19 'TIL 1PM. LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER.

Also excludes: Everyday Values (EDV), Doorbusters, Deals of the Day, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, electronics/electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, athletic shoes for him, her & kids, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services. Exclusions may differ at macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value and may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be \$25 or more, exclusive of tax and delivery fees.



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★ macy's **WOW! PASS**

EXTRA SAVINGS ON ALL SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL
(EXCEPT SPECIALS & SUPER BUYS)

extra 20% OFF

SELECT SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL FOR HIM, HER & KIDS, PLUS FINE & FASHION JEWELRY
EXTRA 15% OFF ALL SALE & CLEARANCE WATCHES, COATS, SUITS, DRESSES, IMPULSE, INTIMATES; MEN'S SUIT SEPARATES & SPORT COATS AND SELECT SHOES & HOME ITEMS

Also excludes: Everyday Values (EDV), Doorbusters, Deals of the Day, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, electronics/electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, athletic shoes for him, her & kids, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services. Exclusions may differ at macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer except opening a new Macy's account. **EXTRA SAVINGS % APPLIED TO REDUCED PRICES.**



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VALID 12/17-12/19/2013

TEXT "CPN" TO 62297 TO GET COUPONS, SALES ALERTS & MORE!

Max 3 msgs/wk. Msg & data rates may apply. By texting CPN from my mobile number, I agree to receive marketing text messages generated by an automated dialer from Macy's to this number. I understand that consent is not required to make a purchase. **Text STOP to 62297 to cancel. Text HELP to 62297 for help.** Terms & conditions at macys.com/mobilehelp. Privacy policy at macys.com/privacypolicy

*EXCLUSIONS APPLY; SEE SAVINGS PASSES. HOURS MAY VARY BY STORE. VISIT MACYS.COM AND CLICK ON STORES FOR LOCAL INFORMATION.

NOW THROUGH
MON, DEC. 23,
WE'RE GIVING
YOU OVER

\$100

IN HOLIDAY
DOLLARS
to make your
shopping easier!

You can use your holiday dollars with any form of payment you choose. You'll even save on top of sale prices throughout the store! It's the perfect time to get all your holiday shopping done at Macy's!

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HOLIDAY DOLLARS
\$15 OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE
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VALID 12/17-12/23/13.
LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER. CANNOT BE USED ON SPECIALS OR SUPER BUYS

Also excludes: Everyday Values (EDV), Doorbusters, Deals of the Day, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, electronics/electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, athletic shoes for him, her & kids, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services. Exclusions may differ at macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value and may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be \$50 or more, exclusive of tax and delivery fees.



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HOLIDAY DOLLARS
\$25 OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$100 OR MORE
ALL SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL
& SELECT HOME ITEMS PLUS FINE & FASHION JEWELRY
VALID 12/17-12/23/13.
LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER. CANNOT BE USED ON SPECIALS OR SUPER BUYS

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★ macy's **WOW! PASS**

HOLIDAY DOLLARS
\$15 OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE
ALL SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL
& SELECT HOME ITEMS PLUS FINE & FASHION JEWELRY
VALID 12/17-12/23/13.
LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER. CANNOT BE USED ON SPECIALS OR SUPER BUYS

Also excludes: Everyday Values (EDV), Doorbusters, Deals of the Day, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, electronics/electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, athletic shoes for him, her & kids, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services. Exclusions may differ at macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value and may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be \$50 or more, exclusive of tax and delivery fees.



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★ macy's **WOW! PASS**

HOLIDAY DOLLARS
\$50 OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$200 OR MORE
ALL SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL
& SELECT HOME ITEMS PLUS FINE & FASHION JEWELRY
VALID 12/17-12/23/13.
LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER. CANNOT BE USED ON SPECIALS OR SUPER BUYS

Also excludes: Everyday Values (EDV), Doorbusters, Deals of the Day, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, electronics/electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, athletic shoes for him, her & kids, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services. Exclusions may differ at macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value and may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be \$200 or more, exclusive of tax and delivery fees.



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FREE SHIPPING ONLINE EVERY DAY + EXTRA 20% OR 15% OFF!

Free shipping with \$99 purchase. Use promo code **GREAT** for extra savings; offer valid 12/17-12/19/2013. Exclusions apply; see macys.com for details.
GET IT THERE BY CHRISTMAS WHEN YOU ORDER ON MACYS.COM BY 11:59PM EST ON 12/21 & CHOOSE STANDARD SHIPPING.



THE GREAT GIFT SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 12/17-12/19/13. MERCHANDISE WILL BE ON SALE AT THESE & OTHER SALE PRICES THROUGH 1/4/14, EXCEPT AS NOTED.

OPEN A MACY'S ACCOUNT FOR EXTRA 20% SAVINGS THE FIRST 2 DAYS, UP TO \$100, WITH MORE REWARDS TO COME. Macy's credit card is available subject to credit approval; new account savings valid the day your account is opened and the next day; excludes services, selected licensed departments, gift cards, restaurants, gourmet food & wine. The new account savings are limited to a total of \$100; application must qualify for immediate approval to receive extra savings; employees not eligible.